

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Applicant notes that claims 1, 2 and 5 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-5 are pending in the application.

Layout of Specification:

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the specification did not conform to the preferred layout of a utility application. Applicant has amended the specification to include section headings in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Section 103 Rejections:

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (US Patent No. 6,426,594) in view of Tanaka (US Patent No. 5,760,757) and Kalt (US Patent No. 6,317,108).

With regard to independent claim 1, Applicant notes that this claim has been amended to more particularly recite that the driver circuit is configured to selectively switch off driver voltage stages in response to a change in the selected number p of simultaneously driven rows such that the number of partial voltage values that are available for driving the display during the display mode varies in dependence on the number p of simultaneously driven rows selected for the display mode.

The Office Action acknowledges that Ito does not teach a driver circuit that can be switched off in dependence on the number p of simultaneously driven rows, and instead relies on Tanaka. Tanaka, however, generally describes a conventional drive circuit that includes a number of voltage followers 100, 102, 104, 106 that can be selectively applied to a scan electrode X_i via buffer transistors 108A, 108B, 108C, 108D. By turning ON selected ones of the buffer transistors 108A, 108B, 108C, 108D, the drive circuit applies one of the available selecting/non-selecting voltages V1, V2, V5, V6 to a particular scan electrode X_i. Applicant respectfully submits that all the selecting/non-selecting voltages V1, V2, V5, V6 must be available for driving the display in order to make the six level drive method described in Tanaka operative. The number of selecting/non-selecting voltages available for driving the display also appears to be fixed at the time the drive circuit is implemented and cannot be varied in response to a change in the display size. In fact, Tanaka does not take into consideration that the display size of the display could change during operation. Applicant, accordingly, respectfully submits that Tanaka fails to teach or suggest a driver circuit configured to selectively switch off driver

voltage stages in response to a change in the selected number p of simultaneously driven rows such that the number of partial voltage values that are available for driving the display during the display mode varies in dependence on the number p of simultaneously driven rows selected for the display mode, as recited in claim 1. Applicant further respectfully submits that the addition of Kalt fails to alleviate these deficiencies. Therefore, because Ito, Tanaka and Kalt, alone and in combination, fail to teach or suggest claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejections with respect to claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon be withdrawn.

With regard to independent claim 5, Applicant notes that this claim recites subject matter similar to claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection with respect to claim 5 and all claims dependent thereon be withdrawn for reasons similar to those discussed above.

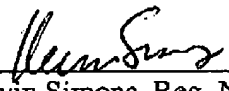
In the Office Action, claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito in view of Tanaka and Kalt and further in view of Tamai (US Patent No. 6,346,774). Applicant notes that the deficiencies of Ito, Tanaka and Kalt were discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the addition of Tamai fails to alleviate these deficiencies. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejections with respect to claims 2-3 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5 are in condition for allowance. Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued with respect to claims 1-5.

Please charge any fees which may be required, except the issue fee, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

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Respectfully submitted,

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